



Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

Tropic Times

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Department of Defense photo by SSgt. Richard Puckett

On the air

Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, commander-in-chief, U.S. Southern Command, speaks to the American military community on SCN-TV. The three-minute video spot was recorded Saturday, his third day of command. During an interview, also conducted Saturday with the *Tropic Times*, he said that "we've got to make sure that the environment overseas, here in Panama and elsewhere where our servicemen and women serve, gives them an opportunity to live a wholesome, involved life where they can develop as people." The complete interview is on page 3.

Job seminar set

FORT CLAYTON (USARSOPAO) - A Department of Defense family member job seminar will be held 9-11 a.m. Wednesday at the Army Training Center, Building 6523, Corozal. Reservations are required. For information, call 285-5201.

Records review begins

FORT CLAYTON (USARSOPAO) - A Department of the Army selection board for sergeants first class, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers' Course and Quality Management Program will be held June 2 at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

A records review will be held 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. through March 11 at the Enlisted Records Section in Building 519, Fort Clayton.

Scholarships awarded

FORT DAVIS (USARSOPAO-Atlantic) - Two people wanting to further their education received a total of \$600 in scholarships from the Atlantic Community Women's Club Feb. 8.

The scholarships were awarded to Peggy Barrett, ACWC member, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Knutson, whose wife is a member.

The ACWC gave an additional \$1,400 to Atlantic community agencies and facilities such as Child Development Services, Girl Scouts and Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

Latin air force conference nets flight coordination agreement

Deal eases tight restrictions, enhances counterdrug effort

by Sgt. James A. Rush
24th Wing Public Affairs

HOWARD AFB - Top air force officials from five South American countries met with 24th Wing and U.S. Southern Command leaders Feb. 8-11 to work out differences in flight coordination procedures.

"Each country exercises control of its sovereign airspace and to enter requires diplomatic overflight clearance," said Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, deputy commander for component affairs here.

Referred to as "DIPs," the clearances allow aircraft to fly through the granting country's airspace using a specified route and entrance and exit points.

Each country has its own standards for processing the requests. Some take up to five days while others need only 24 hours.

This inconsistency has resulted in complications to the wing's mission.

"When you're working a drug war, you're up against a smart, agile narcotrafficker. He can change plans quicker than five days," Williams said.

"Often we cannot get clearance to go in because of the bureaucracy. This hampers our ability to detect and

monitor the narcotraffickers as well as conduct resupply flights."

To resolve this problem, general officers from Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, along with colonels from Peru and Bolivia, attended the diplomatic clearance conference hosted by Brig. Gen. David A. Sawyer, 24th Wing commander. For many of them, this was the first time they had met their allied counterparts.

"The idea was to get regular standards among the five countries most involved in overflights," Williams said. "It brought together high-ranking officers from regional air forces that had never met."

The result was an agreement by all the countries to approve a series of flight profiles. It also gave the Air Operations Center - South the opportunity to choose profiles that will enhance wing support to the ground-based radar sites in the Andean Range.

"We can't predict where intelligence will tell us the narcotraffickers are going to be," Williams said. "In the past, to gain flexibility, we filed three times the number of requests that we actually needed. It didn't hurt us if we didn't fly, but this increased the workload on embassy and host nation staffs to process the requests."

The agreement takes effect Monday.

"What this shows is that these countries really are trying to help in the drug war," Williams said. "This is just a small step, but it significantly enhances our ability to operate in this region."

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Air Combat Command selects Howard AFB noncommissioned officer as "Top Cop."

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Fort Davis plays host to weekend Directorate of Community Activities Fair.

and More

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56th Signal dismantles, moves 90-foot tower

by SSgt. Jane Usero
USARSO Public Affairs Office

FORT CLAYTON - Standing on top of a 90-foot antenna tower isn't a job for just anyone, but for some of the men of the 56th Signal Battalion, it's what they do for a living.

When the antenna tower in front of U.S. Army South headquarters needed to be dismantled recently, it was the Communications Electronics Maintenance Facility of Headquarters Detachment, 56th Sig. Bn., called in to do the job.

"This job was out of the ordinary, but still routine," said Henry Smith, chief of the C and E Maintenance Facility. "It's what we do for a living."

The shop, which is made up of 20 military and civilian workers, is responsible for maintaining all communications equipment, except tactical, for all U.S. military in Panama, Smith said.

"We handle everything from microwave radios to antennas and towers to computers for all of the services," he said.

Dismantling and preparing the 90-foot tower for movement to the Atlantic community, however, was not something the unit does every day.

"Our normal job is to maintain the towers, but we have specialists who have been trained to work on towers," Smith said. "This is the second antenna tower we have taken down in less than a year. This type of work also takes a combination of the experience and wisdom of our older men and the enthusiasm and strength of our younger men."

This particular tower was not just dismantled and put into mothballs, however. The tower, estimated to be worth more than \$100,000, was shipped to the 1097th Boat Company on Fort Davis, he said.

"You could easily say the government saved between \$75-80,000 by reusing this tower," Smith said.

Another factor which saved money was the co-



U.S. Army photo by SSgt. Jane Usero

Sgt. Hector Martinez of Headquarters Detachment, 56th Signal Battalion, unties an antenna after it was lowered by crane from its 90-foot perch.

operation between the C and E Facility and the 193rd Support Battalion which supplied the trucks and drivers to move the tower to the Atlantic community, Smith said.

In less than seven hours, the men of the C and E Facility, DEH and 193rd Spt. Bn. had the tower down, dismantled, loaded onto the trucks and on its way to Fort Davis.

The tower is scheduled to be put back up by the C and E Facility in the Atlantic community in the near future, after the proposed site has been prepared, Smith said.

"Even though this is out of the ordinary, no job is too tough for the C and E Facility crew," he said.

Air Force fights lower pensions

WASHINGTON (Air Force News Service) - The Air Force is challenging a Defense Finance and Accounting Service decision to recompute — and thereby lower — the pensions of 7,000 retired Air Force officers and enlisted people and 650 annuitants.

The move is related to the interpretation of a pay computation formula contained in the 1975 Tower Amendment. This provision protects against inversion of retired pay for members who stay on active duty after becoming eligible for re-

tirement by treating retired pay as if it were based on an earlier, more advantageous retirement date.

The Air Force applied a decision by the Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Committee as a waiver to certain of those regulatory restrictions. That application is contrary to the current DFAS interpretations.

The adjustment could result in reductions ranging up to several hundred dollars per month depending upon rank and time in service, and could be effective as early as Tuesday.

AF targets donations

by Sgt. James A. Rush
24th Wing Public Affairs

HOWARD AFB - Unit representatives for the Air Force Assistance Fund will try to contact 100 percent of the military members here and at Albrook AFS beginning today.

This year's drive runs through March 31. The 24th Wing is aiming to secure \$19,799 in contributions, said 1st Lt. David Kent, AFAF Drive project officer.

"My intention is to exceed this goal," he said. "To do this, we must make 100 percent contact."

Contributions are strictly voluntary and may be made to any of four AFAF charities: the General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation, Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc., Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, and Air Force Air Society.

The General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation's purpose is to provide financial support to needy widows and widowers of active duty and retired Air Force officers throughout the United States.

Many elderly Air Force officer widows need assistance because they are not covered by the current Survivor Benefits Plan and their spouse's service was prior to Social Security coverage for military members, according to AFAF literature.

Likewise, the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc., looks after the family members of airmen and NCOs.

Services provided include rent subsidies for widows in need; free transportation to base hospitals, exchanges, and other agencies; around the clock security; and medical alerting.

Similar to the LeMay Foundation, the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund also aids spouses of deceased officers. Housing, medical care and other needed help is given at several Air Force Villages around the country.

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force. It gives financial relief during emergencies to active duty members and their families. It also assists active duty members who are on active duty longer than 30 days and retirees in some cases.

In Panama, the society offers tuition assistance to spouses of active duty military members as well.

Contributions to AF Assistance Fund may be made through payroll deduction or in cash (U.S. currency), personal checks, money orders, and other redeemable instruments.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund, unlike other programs, directly aids Air Force members and their dependents," Kent said. "Understand however, that all contributions are strictly voluntary."

A strict code of ethics is applied to the solicitation of contributions, he said.

The following practices are prohibited:

- ◆Soliciting employees in the chain of command.
- ◆Inquiring whether or not an employee chose to participate or the amount of an employee donation.
- ◆Setting 100 percent participation goals or personal dollar amounts or quotas.
- ◆Developing or using lists of non-contributors.
- ◆Using contribution data as a factor in an employee's performance appraisal.
- ◆Soliciting civilian employees, retirees, AF-oriented organizations and local civilian organizations.

For more information, call the orderly room for your unit AFAF drive contact or call Kent at 284-3708.

Local NCO chosen as Air Combat Command's 'Top Cop'

by SSgt. Rian Clawson
24th Wing Public Affairs

HOWARD AFB - "I don't know how he does everything he does, but the man's an absolute wizard when it comes to getting the job done," said one member of MSgt. James Adkison's chain of command.

The sentiment was common among subordinates, peers and superiors in the local community and it was echoed at Headquarters Air Combat Command when Adkison was recently selected as ACC's "Top Cop" in the senior NCO category.

Although he said he was proud to have been selected, the chief of the 24th Security Police Squadron's arms and equipment element said he did not do it alone.

"It's a great feeling, but everyone knows you can't win an award like this without a lot of other people behind you," Adkison said.

"I owe a lot to (former 24th SPS commander) Colonel (Richard) Coleman for pushing me to excel and then giving me the opportunity and the support to succeed. A lot of other people worked very hard to make this happen, and I couldn't have done it without them."

In a letter recommending him for the award Coleman called Adkison his "absolute best senior noncommis-

sioned officer, head and shoulders above his contemporaries."

"Master Sergeant Adkison is a true professional who can always be counted upon, no matter what," agreed 24th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. David A. Sawyer.

"He is highly respected by his subordinates, peers, superiors and all others who have met or done business with him.

Adkison's resource management skills were largely responsible for his selection for the award, said CMSgt. Larry Brown, 24th SPS chief enlisted manager.

"Establishment of Howard's mounted horse patrol — the only one in today's Air Force — was just one of his many accomplishments," Brown said.

Adkison procured a facility, adjoining pasture area and more than \$30,000 worth of building materials for the program — at no cost to the unit. He also led self-help construction efforts, which saved nearly \$150,000 in construction costs.

Another time, while on temporary duty to Nellis AFB, Nev., Adkison identified stored mobility equipment critical for use at Howard.

He earmarked and palletized the equipment for airlift to Panama — saving the 24th SPS an estimated \$200,000 in purchase costs.

"I like doing what I do, and I do it with a vengeance," Adkison said.

"I try to give 150 percent to everything I work on."

Brown said Adkison has used his insight and programming expertise to secure more than \$150,000 through reimbursement for the 24th SPS's support of Panama Security Enhancement, counter-drug and other higher level operations.

"I take it as a personal challenge when I'm told something can't be done," Adkison said. "I don't believe anything is impossible."

This is a viewpoint he has passed on to the men and women who work for him.

"A lot of people were saying it would be impossible to get new computers for the unit, but Sergeant Adkison got them," said TSgt. Danny Gill, 24th SPS chief of supply. "That made me a believer."

Adkison teaches his people to face and meet their challenges, Gill added.

"He really has a lot of faith in us and he lets us know it; he pushes us to achieve our potential."

Adkison's co-workers, associates and friends joined to wish him good luck as he goes forward to compete as "Top Cop" in the Air Force, in the senior NCO category.

First impressions

McCaffrey sets agenda

by SMSgt. Steve Taylor and Sgt. Lori Davis
Tropic Times staff

Barry McCaffrey was a young first lieutenant when the attack came at 3:15 a.m. As an advisor to a Vietnamese Airborne Battalion on a search and clear operation near Dong Ha, Vietnam, he was soon to learn the meaning of command.

Wounded in the shoulder, he ran through the night under strafing rifle fire and mortar attacks to check the severity of the attack. He found the senior American commander dead and all but one of the company commanders seriously wounded.

But he took it upon himself, with a painful shoulder wound, to organize a defense to repel the attackers. Again he was struck by mortar fire, but he persisted by organizing a counterattack.

Twelve grueling hours later, the camp still stood in American and South Vietnamese hands after defeating Viet Cong attacks four times.

It was Oct. 6, 1966, a night of courage and valor that would earn him the first of two distinguished service crosses in Vietnam.

Now, some 27 years later, McCaffrey has attained the rank of general and is the new commander-in-chief of the U.S. Southern Command.

His career has been tough, but rewarding. The tour in 1966 in Vietnam was the first of four combat tours which would culminate in the deserts of Saudi Arabia and Iraq where he commanded the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) as a major general.

It was there in Iraq that he first came into national focus as his troops marched quickly into Iraq, helping to defeat the world's fourth largest army in one of the most successful military campaigns in history.

That was one of the most important experiences of his life, one which he said "was such a statement on the capabilities of our staff sergeants, our privates, and our captains. None of us will ever forget it. All of them, not just the combat troops, but the entire team along this 500-kilometer battlefield acting in concert with one another."

That team also included Guard and Reserve forces. "Desert Storm was one of the greatest validations of the reserve component that has ever occurred. We could not have prosecuted that conflict without the active participation of the Reserves from the first day of the deployment," McCaffrey said.

A respected leader of soldiers on the battlefield, McCaffrey is well suited for the transition of leading the

American military community in Latin America. Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff backed that up at McCaffrey's assumption of command when he said, "he is one of the most gifted officers to wear four stars."

McCaffrey credits much of his success to a supportive family. McCaffrey and his wife, Jill, have been around the military a long time. Both grew up in the Army, traveling throughout the world, and now their son, Sean, serves as a U.S. Army parachute infantry captain and their daughter, Tara, is an Army nurse. A third child, Amy, attends the University of Washington.

He is equally dedicated to the servicemembers he leads. A highlight of his life, he said, was when he was presented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award in 1991. It was for his involvement and dedication to equal rights for all Americans.

General and Mrs. McCaffrey first served in Panama from 1967 to 1968 when then Captain McCaffrey was the aide-de-camp to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Forces Southern Command at Fort Amador. The assignment came between two combat tours in Vietnam.

"We have fond memories of a beautiful year here," he said.

Now as the senior U.S. military commander in Latin America, he is responsible for implementing U.S. military policy throughout a region that encompasses 19 nations.

"Our president said he has three goals. One is supporting democracy, secondly to support the economic development of Latin America and third to enhance regional security," McCaffrey said.

"So clearly our number one responsibility is to act as responsible neighbors and partners in concert with other democratic nations."

As a man who has dedicated his life to the service of his country, McCaffrey said he found much the same commitment in the men and women of the Clinton administration.

"I spent 20 months in Washington working first for the President Bush and Secretary Cheney national security team, then I had the honor and opportunity to continue working in very close association with President Clinton and his senior national security advisors," McCaffrey said.

"It's important for us to understand the enormous talent and sense of integrity of the men and women who step forward and ask to serve the American people in these



Courtesy photo
A 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) M-1 tank storms Iraq. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey commanded the 24th during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

"One of my most important responsibilities is to work in every way possible to maintain a complete quality of life for American servicemembers and their families in the six years remaining."

senior appointed positions," he said.

"I can say clearly without qualification that I have never met a more patriotic and capable group of people in my life."

Those common traits of dedication and patriotism help bring together servicemembers from the United States and Latin America, McCaffrey said.

"We understand that our Latin American counterparts play the same proud and important broadly-focused role that those of us in U.S. military uniforms carry out in our own society," he said. "So we understand that they have a vital responsibility in their societies to combat terrorism, to take part in the war against the drug menace that threatens the freedom of all of us and to support their people."

Working together to overcome the problems which affect everyone in the western hemisphere is important to all the Americas, McCaffrey said.

"(North) America's future is in large part here in Latin America," he said. "As I look back 25 years ago when I first started my association with Latin America there has been an enormous change for the better in terms of the growing revolution of democratization of all these political systems," he said.

These changes, along with the growing economies of Latin American countries, are paving the way for increased economic interaction between the Americas.

"We just passed NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), an open trade agreement uniting all the North American continent. I would expect that in years to come we will see an extension of that trade agreement," he said. So Latin America is essential to the future of America, and the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces will play a vital role in supporting our attempts to create regional security and to move into the future."

The many questions about the future of the U.S. military here as forces prepare to leave Panama by 1999 are among McCaffrey's main concerns.

"Friends don't surprise friends," he said.

"I didn't come here with new, dramatic announcements. We will continue the very well thought-out conceptual approach laid down by the government of Panama acting in cooperation with U.S. authorities to move inexorably to fully implement our international responsibility under the treaty."

As military units depart Panama there will be changes in the community, he said.

However, the new commander is dedicated to maintaining a high quality of life for families. "One of my most important responsibilities is to work in every way possible to maintain a complete quality of life for American servicemembers and their families in the six years remaining," McCaffrey said.

"It's going to be tough to keep a balance among these various competing demands for manpower and dollars as we draw down. I've listened to the initial briefings of those charged with this responsibility and it seems they have a real handle on this and they clearly understand their mission."

"We've got to make sure that the environment overseas, here in Panama and elsewhere where our servicemen and women serve, gives them an opportunity to live a wholesome, involved life where they can develop as people," he said.



Courtesy photo
Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey speaks with President Clinton on board Air Force One enroute to the Summit of the Pacific Rim in Seattle. McCaffrey served for the past 20 months as assistant to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and then as director of plans, strategy, and policy for the JCS. He was responsible for coordination with the National Security Council and the interagency process dealing with political-military issues.

Patron wants weekend swimming classes

Dear Mayors' Corner:

I would like to know why there aren't any beginners swimming classes offered on the weekends at any of the swimming pools in the military community?

Working Military Spouse

Dear Working:

I spoke with Hector Sanchez, chief of Outdoor Recreation Division, and he said that in the past, make-up classes have been scheduled on weekends and they were confronted with upset pool customers.

The customers said they felt the only time they could use and enjoy the pools in a relaxed and quiet atmosphere was on the weekends. The customers said they felt the swimming lessons were taking up space that was otherwise available for their enjoyment and that classes should be taught

Mayors' Corner

on weekdays.

By scheduling classes during the week, Outdoor Recreation feels they can provide better service when the demand for leisure time is at its greatest.

Dear Mayors' Corner:

On Jan. 3, I passed through the Howard AFB main gate at about 1 p.m. There were three cars ahead of me and none of them were stopped.

When I tried to go through, I was stopped by the security police who asked to see my identification.

My son told me there was a sign about an ID card check in progress and he also said the driver of the car ahead of me had

showed his ID through his windshield.

If a car is traveling at 3-4 miles per hour, as is normal going through the gate, how is the SP going to determine at a quick glance if the ID card belongs to the person showing it or if it genuine, counterfeit or expired?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled:

I submitted your letter to the SPs and got the following answer: Entry controllers working the day shift become familiar with many of those who routinely enter the gate. Our entry controllers are authorized to grant entry based on personal recognition.

The entry controller on duty at the time you specified in the letter said she does allow entry to those who display identification through the windshield if she knows for a fact she has checked their IDs before.

Again, this practice is acceptable and does expedite the flow of traffic. If you have any questions, call 284-5502.

Editor's note: This column allows community members to submit questions to the Mayoral Congress. Letters should be mailed to: Mayors' Corner, Publicity Chairperson, APO AA 34004 (MPS). Anonymity will be granted upon request. The Tropic Times reserves the right to edit letters and responses for brevity, clarity and propriety.

Action Line

Motorist inquires about Howard construction

Q. I'd like to know when work is going to resume on the road going to the main gate at Howard AFB. There's been no apparent progress made in the last three weeks and the many potholes and the uneven surfaces are really wreaking havoc on vehicles. Also, many drivers are swerving to prevent hitting the potholes and damaging their vehicles and I'm afraid this is going to cause an accident. Can something be done about this situation?



Sawyer

A. I understand your concerns about the Beard Road paving project. Although not always obvious, progress has been fairly consistent. The contractor decided to do the initial shoulder preparation work before completing the asphalt work on the main traffic lanes.

This work was done and the contractor resumed laying the asphalt (this should take about 20 days to complete). The contractor will then finish the shoulder surface and apply pavement markings, and complete the entire job by March 31.

We discussed with the contractor our concerns about the potholes and, as you may have noticed, they've been repaired. Future potholes that develop during the construction period will also be filled in immediately.

We know projects of this size are inconvenient to the base populace and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. Thanks for writing, and if you have any other comments, call the 24th Civil Engineering Squadron's Jason Johnson at 284-3705.

Editor's note: The commander's action line is a direct link between Brig. Gen. David Sawyer, 24th Wing commander and Howard/Albrook personnel. Questions can be called in at 284-5849.

Change to U.S. Army Garrison regulation affects pet owners

Pet control

All pet owners need to be aware of a recent change in the U.S. Army Garrison Regulation 210-1. Pets will not be allowed to be loose under voice control. All pets must be leashed or confined to the premises of the owner.

For more information, see U.S. Garrison Reg 210-1.

Stolen wallet

A man had his wallet stolen last week. The wallet had \$35 and his identification cards in it. The wallet was left in an unsecured locker at a swimming pool. Always secure property to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Report suspicious activity to the military police at 287-4401 or 289-5133.

Secured bike stolen

A Fort Clayton 800 housing area resident had his bicycle stolen from his back porch last week. The bike was chained to the bars on the back windows of the quarters in a screened-porch when a thief pushed the screen in and unlocked the porch door, cut the chain and removed the bike.

Everyone should secure bikes inside a shed or quarters. This crime prevention method will lessen the chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Pocket picked

A man was shopping at La Plaza Las Talas last week when someone picked his pocket. A wallet was taken from his right front shirt pocket with \$50 in cash and various identification and bank cards.

Use caution when shopping downtown, don't carry large amounts of cash and distribute cash to different pockets.

If a victim of crime, call 287-4401 or 289-5133.

Unsecured bike

A soldier had his unsecured bike stolen from in front of the Fort Clayton library last week.

Secure property at all times to decrease the chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Provost Marshal's Corner



Anonymous drug hotline

Anyone with information about drug smuggling should call the Panama Jack anonymous hotline at 285-4185.

The following crimes occurred in on- and off-post housing areas Feb. 11-17.

Pacific

Fort Clayton 800 housing area - one larceny of secured private property

Atlantic

Fort Espinar area - one larceny of unsecured private property

Panama City

El Congrejo - one larceny of secured private property

La Alameda - one larceny of secured private property

Bethania - one larceny of secured private property

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The address is: Unit 0936 APO AA 34002

Telephone 285-6612.

Commander in Chief.....Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey
Director, Public Affairs.....Col. James L. Fetig

Chief.....SMSgt. Steve Taylor
Editor.....SSgt. Richard Puckett
Sports Editor.....Sgt. E. J. Hersom
Staff Editors.....Sgt. Lori Davis
Spec. John Hall
Rosemary Chong
Maureen Sampson
Volunteer Assistant.....Josephine Beane
Student Intern.....Juan Carlos Palacio
Southern Command Public Affairs Office.....282-4278
Command Information Officer.....Patrick Milton
U.S. Army South Public Affairs Office.....287-3007
Public Affairs Officer.....Maj. Melanie Reeder
Command Information Officer.....Beth Taylor

Editor.....SSgt. Jane Usero
Journalists.....Sgt. Eric Hortin
Sgt. Robin A. Mantikoski
Spec. Alexander C. White
24th Wing Public Affairs Office.....284-5459
Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. Warren L. Sypher
Public Affairs Superintendent.....MSgt. Dale Mitcham
Journalists.....SSgt. Rian Clawson
Sgt. James A. Rush
U.S. Naval Station Public Affairs Office.....283-5644
Public Affairs Officer.....Diane Gonzalez
Photographers.....PH2 Roberto R. Taylor
PH2 Delano J. Mays
U.S. Army South PAO-Atlantic.....289-4312
NCOIC.....Sgt. Richard Emert

Communication key to dealing with troubles

by Chap. (Capt.) Leon G. Kircher
USARSO Family Life Chaplain

One of my all-time favorite television programs was the original 'Star Trek' and it always amazed me how quickly Capt. Kirk could get out of trouble.

When Kirk, Spock and 'Bones' were trapped on some forbidden planet or running from the Klingons, Kirk would order them to put "phasers on stun" and see what happened. If that didn't work, Kirk would get on the communicator and call 'Scotty.'

"Scotty, beam us up," he would shout. Of course, Scotty's usual heavily-accented response would be, "But I haven't got the power sir. I'll be lucky to get just two of you."

Kirk, the brave captain he is, would stay behind until Scotty finally got the power, which was usually just in the nick of time.

Wouldn't it be great if every time we ran into a serious problem we could call up some magical person and have ourselves beamed out? It would make things so easy.

But, real-life doesn't work that way. When difficult times come, most of us have to do the best we can and hope for the best in the end.

Still, many people don't rely on the sources available to help them through problems. They begin to experience feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, anger, guilt and depression. Work performance falls off, usually dramatically. They don't care about their jobs or relationships anymore.

Where do they find help? Many times, their help is in alcohol or drugs. These avenues may help you forget the problem, but they also help you lose control of your emotions, especially when used in excess.

Rather than finding the support needed from others, support through alcohol or drugs becomes their crutch.

It doesn't stop there, however. In too many cases, life gets out of control. The job just isn't working out, problems at home are escalating, there's never enough money, the boss doesn't treat them right and the list goes on.

A few end up deciding on "a permanent solution to a temporary problem," and think about suicide. They feel this route will take care of all their problems. It never does.

A person going through tough times needs another person to talk to. There's no Scotty to beam them away from problems. They need a Capt. Kirk; they need you.



If a person is talking about taking their life or expressing feelings of hopelessness and despair, then it's up to you to make sure they get help.

Never assume that a person will just get over it. They may not, and you don't want to take that chance with a life. Get professional help.

Call a chaplain or a mental health specialist at the hospital — never just let it go.

If the person who needs the help is you and you are

going through a time in your life when things seem to be getting out of control, suicide is never the answer, getting help is.

As with the crew of the *USS Enterprise*, no one is ever really alone. There are always people there to help us through, to give a helping hand or even just an "ear" to bend.

Sharing a burden always makes the load lighter and easier to carry.

Direct Quotes

Who do you talk to you when the 'going gets tough'?



"My husband and family."

Emma Guthrie
Army family member



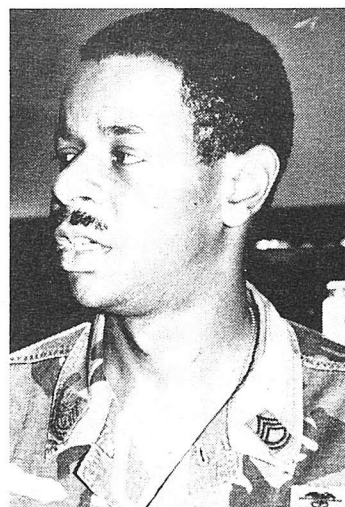
"My supervisor, Senior Airman Weaver."

SrA. William Treat
24th Security Police Squadron



"My flight chief, Master Sergeant Janson."

A1C Jack Constable
24th Security Police Squadron



"Normally my section supervisor or a special friend."

SFC Aquilino Pizarro
Headquarters Company, 41st Area Support Group



"My mom in the states and friends."

Pvt. 2 Nina Garcia
Company A, 536th Engineer Battalion

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Josh Haddock focuses on an incoming egg during the egg toss event.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rick Emer

A day at the fair

Atlantic community hosts fiesta

FORT DAVIS (USARSO PAO-Atlantic) - "Fiesta Panama," the 1994 Atlantic Directorate of Community Activities Fair, is now more like a siesta.

The huge metal rides that reached into the sky a few days ago are gone and the excited screams and laughter have given way to silence.

The fair ended Monday fair transformed the normally peaceful Atlantic community into an amusement park, but the community didn't seem to mind, said William P. McLaughlin, business recreation branch manager and special events coordinator for Directorate of Community Activities.

"There were less people here than last year, but the people who came really enjoyed it," he said. "We had a new ride ("The Radar") this year, and it was a big hit."

Planning for the Atlantic fair and the April 14-17 Pacific fair began in August.

"The fair (here) takes months to plan, 10 days to set up and three days to tear down," he said.

Although this marked the 27th DCA fair McLaughlin has helped plan, he's still learning, he said.

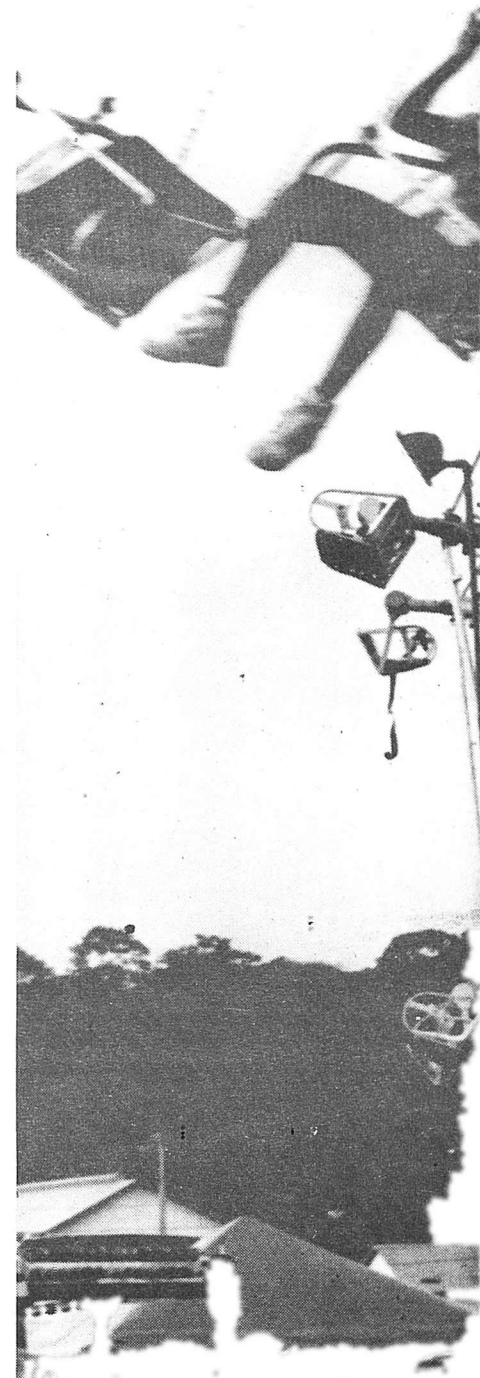
"Every year I learn something new," he said. "Probably the best thing I did was go to some International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions conferences."

Additionally, he attended a National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials class.

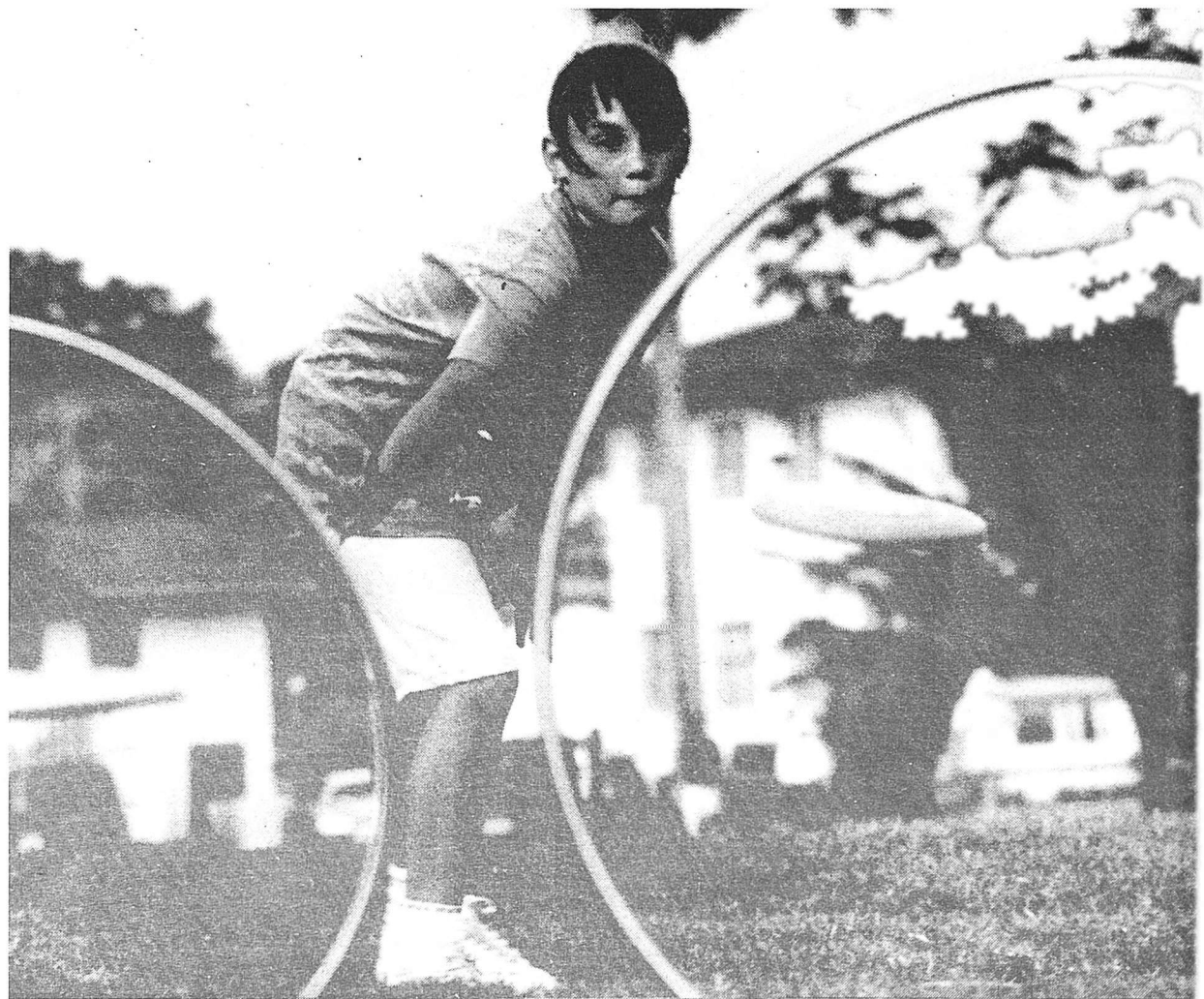
The class shows how to determine if a ride is safe, he said.

McLaughlin was a permanent fixture on the fairgrounds during the set-up and run of the fair, but the fact that the Atlantic fair has ended doesn't mean he can rest.

"Now it's back into the coordination mode for the Pacific fair," he said.



Fair patrons go for a swing on one of t



Allison McLaughlin tosses a frisbee through a hoop during the children's games portion of the fair.



e fair rides.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rick Emert



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rick Emert



U.S. Army photo by SSgt. Jane Usero

The Caterpillar takes another group of riders on a run.



Sports

Feb. 25, 1994

Quarry Heights, Republic of Panama

Page 8



Department of Defense photo by Sgt. E.J. Hersom

Cougars shortstop Brandon Barrett denies a steal at second.

Cougars onslaught earns victory

by Sgt. E.J. Hersom
Tropic Times Sports Editor

BALBOA - Bulldogs pitcher Danny Glotzer's seven strikeouts were not enough to hold the Cougars Tuesday as the Cougars came from behind to beat the Bulldogs 12-6.

The Cougars scored a run in the top of first only to let 3 score in the bottom half.

Alex Staton led off the Bulldogs lineup with a base hit. Staton moved to second on a passed ball and scored when Cougars pitcher Dan Bright balked.

Carlos Rivera followed with a base hit and Michael Robison knocked him in with a two-run home run, his second of the year.

Robison has about half the Bulldogs RBI for the season. He has two home runs and an average around .450, Bulldogs Coach Larry Quinn said.

Glotzer held the Cougars at the top of the second and the Bulldogs went on to score three more in the bottom half.

The Cougars rallied in the fourth, scoring three runs on passed balls. The Bulldogs could only leave a man stranded to end the inning.

The Cougars took the lead in the fifth on another passed ball followed by a triple by first baseman Adrian Tejada, who was knocked in by Raul Martinez for the go ahead run.

The Bulldogs left two men stranded in the bottom of the fifth and the Cougars prepared its onslaught.

Second baseman Avery Austin, down 0-2, led off the sixth with a base hit. Catcher Dan Gonzales followed suit with a shot up the middle and the Bulldogs coach yanked Glotzer and put in Carlos Rivera.

Rivera's first batter was Bright, who smacked him for a double and two RBI.

Third baseman Shawn Scott sent Bright to third with a base hit to center field. Scott then took second on a passed ball.

A level swing by shortstop Barrett Branden sent Bright home and a pitch to the stomach sent Tejada to first. Before long, it was bases loaded, no outs and the Cougars up 10-6.

The Cougars scored again on a passed ball and for the Bulldogs it seemed the inning just wouldn't die.

Right fielder Martinez knocked in the Cougars 12th run and Quinn yanked Rivera and put in Staton.

Staton forced a pop fly to Robison, who caught it and beat the runner back to first for a double play. Staton then picked up a strikeout to end the inning.

Rivera knocked in the final run for the Bulldogs in the bottom of the sixth and Bright ended any other hopes of the Bulldogs coming back in the bottom of the seventh by striking out the side.

The Bulldogs gave up six runs on pass balls. "It's hard for any team to win with that," said Bulldogs assistant coach John Beach.

The win improved the Cougars record to 1-1. "We haven't had the good pitching — the kind that can go all seven innings. We had it today and that makes a difference," said Cougars coach Vincent Martinez.

At the beginning of the season, the league picked the Bulldogs to go undefeated during the season's eight weeks. A lack of aggressiveness has cost the Bulldogs that type of season, Quinn said. The loss dropped the Bulldogs to 0-3.

Other win-loss records in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools baseball league are Red Machine 3-0, Green Devils 1-1 and Cristobal 1-1.

AUSA run page 9

The Association of the U.S. Army sponsors a run beginning at the Reeder Physical Fitness Center.

Anxiety page 10

The crew of the *High Anxiety* cayuco rows to race day singing songs of the '60s and feeling no pain.

and More page 11

- ◆ Drag racing
- ◆ Bicycle race
- ◆ SCN radio sports

Pro surfers, ASP tour come to Panama

COROZAL (Tropic Times) - The open amateur competition of the Association of Surfing Professionals East kicked off the Panama leg of a world tour today at Isla Grande.

The event is the first ASP tour in Panama and is also the first world qualifying series for the pro women's event.

Frieda Zamba of Flagler Beach, Fla., came out of a five-year retirement to attend the event.

Zamba is a four-time world champion surfer and will compete for a \$1,000 purse.

Zamba has also entered the open pro division and will compete toe-to-toe against some of the best male competitors from the east coast.

"Some male egos may be diminished after surfing a heat with this woman," said Sonny Yambor of ASP East Headquarters in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

The male surfers are competing for \$10,000. The competition has attracted surfers from California, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Trinidad, Brazil, Venezuela and Panama as well as the east coast surfers.

Ricardo Burgos, the event's promoter, has kept a close eye on neighboring Costa Rica because of its tourist industry that has flourished because of surfing, he said.

Burgos, who is also local surf shop owner, would like the same thing for Panama, he said.

Panama has an untold wealth of exotic surf locations like Isla Grande that will be discovered by establishing this event, he said.

"Panama is securing its place as a destination for surf," he said.

Along with surfing, a fashion swimwear competition will be held with a pot of \$1,000 and a chance at a modeling contract from the competition's sponsor, officials said.



The 549th Military Police Company team runs the five-mile event.

U.S. Army photo by SSGT. Jane Usero

AUSA sponsors run

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - The Association of the U.S. Army sponsored the U.S. Army South Presidents Day fun run that began 7 a.m. Saturday morning.

The event included an 800-yard dash, one and three-mile competitions for male and female runners of all ages and a five-mile run for runners ages 15 and up that began at the Reeder Physical Fitness Center here.

The top finishers of the five-mile run were:

15 years old and younger - Shannon Johnson, first; Becky Scruggs, second.

16-19 years old - Hank Davis, first; Jamie Espinosa, second; Ronald Gonzalez, third.

20-29 years old male - Robert Czech, first; Juan Jaen, second; Tomas Castro, third.

20-29 years old female - Marcelyn Downer, first; Sue Bozgoz, second;

Cynthia Hargrow, third.

30-39 years old male - Miguel Campos, first; Oriez Chanis, second; Peter Frederick, third.

30-39 years old female - Jan Brockman, first; Maria Richey, second.

40-49 years old - Jose Sousa, first; Clint Davis, second; Zenen Carrillo, third.

Over 50 years old - Deck Chang, first and only competitor in class.

Standings

Women's Softball League

Team	W	L	GB
Menasche Sports	9	1	-
Nujak Swing	8	2	1
Chryler	7	3	2
Comedy Crew	4	7	5 1/2
Kamikazes	4	7	5 1/2
Lady Torpedoes	3	7	6
All Guts No Glory	1	9	8

as of Monday

Atlantic Women's Softball League

Team	W	L	GB
2 La Jit	8	0	-
Hustlers	5	3	3
Ladies Caimanes	3	5	5
Panthers	0	8	8

Reeder Over 30 Basketball League

Team	W	L	GB
The Friends	12	0	-
Knights	11	2	1 1/2
The Posse	9	4	3 1/2
Jazz	8	6	5
Barcardi	8	6	5
Co. E 308th MI	6	9	7 1/2
Los Medios	4	8	8
MEDDAC	3	9	9
SOUTHC0M2	2	10	10
SOUTHC0M	1	11	11

Army Unit Level Softball League

White League

Team	W	L	GB
142nd Med	10	2	-
HHCUSAG	8	1	1/2
310th MI	8	3	1 1/2
SOUTHC0M	7	3	2
HHD 470th MI	7	4	2 1/2
Co. B 1-508th	6	4	3
Co. B 193rd Spt.	5	5	4
Co. C 1-508th	5	5	4
56th Ord. Det.	6	7	4 1/2
41st ASG	5	7	5
59th Eng.	2	4	5
DCSRM	3	8	6 1/2
HHC 193rd Inf.	1	9	8
Co. A 193rd Supt.	0	10	9

Red League

Team	W	L	GB
56th Signal Bat.	9	3	-
Co. E 1-228th	9	3	-
HHCLEA	8	3	1/2
MEDDAC	8	5	1 1/2
Co. A 154th Sig.	6	3	1 1/2
534th MP Co.	6	5	2 1/2
HHD 56th Sig.	7	7	3
3rd SOSC	5	6	3 1/2
HHC 1-228th	4	7	4 1/2
92nd PSC	4	6	4

555th MP Co.	2	7	5 1/2
Co. B 154th Sig	2	8	6
HHCUSAG/IG	3	10	6 1/2

as of Monday

Green League

Team	W	L	GB
747th MI	5	0	-
TRICO	4	0	1/2
JOTB	3	0	1
PCC	3	1	1 1/2
549th MP Co.	2	2	2 1/2
HSGA	2	2	2 1/2
3-7th SF	2	2	2 1/2
Co. A 5-87th	1	1	2 1/2
Navy Gold	1	4	4
HHC 5-87th	0	2	3 1/2
Co. C 5-87th	0	1	3
408th MI	0	2	3 1/2
Marines	0	5	5
Co. B 5-87th	0	0	-

as Feb. 21

Howard Softball League

National League

Team	W	L	GB
24th AIS/OSS	11	4	-
24th MEDS	9	3	1 1/2
617th SOAD	8	7	3

HHC 1-508th	6	3	3
24th COMM #1	6	6	3 1/2
24th SVS	6	7	4
617th ALSS #2	1	13	9 1/2

Western Division

24th SPS#1	14	0	-
24th MSSQ	10	3	3 1/2
24th TRANS	8	7	6 1/2
HHC 1-228th	3	9	10
24th WS	2	12	12
24th CES #2	2	12	12

as of Wednesday

American League

Southern Division

Team	W	L	GB
24th SUPS	13	0	-
536th Eng.	11	2	2
24th CES #1	5	6	7
24 AIRPS	5	9	8 1/2
310 ALS	3	8	9
Co. C 1-228th	1	10	11

Northern Division

617th ALSS #1	10	4	-
24th MS	9	5	1
24th SPS #2	9	5	1
Co. B 1-228th	4	5	3 1/2
Co. A 1-508th	3	7	5
24th COMM #2	0	12	9

as of Wednesday



The crew of *High Anxiety*, Lucia Lincoln, Devon Sprague, Nyda Nieves and Tera Lee Kemp, turn the boat around near the Diablo Heights loading dock during a daily workout. Department of Defense photo by Sgt. E.J. Hersom

High Anxiety pulls it together

The crew of *High Anxiety*, Lucia Lincoln, Devon Sprague, Nyda Nieves and Tera Lee Kemp, is anything but apprehensive about the 41st Panama Canal District Boy Scouts of America Annual Ocean-to-Ocean Cayuco Race.

They plan on winning the trophy in the female category of the race and an overall top 10, but the real goal is to have fun, Lincoln said.

Lincoln and Sprague left the *NIC*, which finished fourth in '93, for the *High Anxiety*, which finished second in '93, because the *Anxiety* lost two members and the camaraderie of the *NIC* fell apart, Sprague said.

Sprague and Lincoln said they wanted a tighter knit team and Nieves and Kemp had been their friends for a long time. The spots were open so it only made sense to race in *High Anxiety* and together they came up with a plan.

Each crew member has a job on the boat, Lincoln explained.

Lincoln is the boat's bailer. She bails water that swamps the boat from paddle splashes, waves and wake — especially from tugboats, — she said with a twinge of resentment toward tugboats.

Sprague's job is responsible for steering.

"It's like hell," she said. "You have to keep the boat straight. You can't sleep at all. Everyone else just goes numb while they keep paddling."

The crew plans not to lose focus on the race by singing as they paddle. Their choice of music is '60s.

"You don't feel the pain that way," Sprague said.

Nieves provides the boat with power. She pushes the boat as fast as possible and helps Lincoln bail when she gets swamped, she said.

The crew is off to a slow start this season and is averaging around 69 strokes per minute, but the slow

pace comes only when they are timed, Kemp said.

Kemp is the boat's pacer. The pacer keeps count of the strokes and calls the changes from paddling one side to the other, she said.

Kemp captained *High Anxiety* in the '93 race, but this year's captain has not been selected, she said.

The crew members have been practicing since they finished soccer season in February, but they are not limiting themselves to the daily paddle around the Diablo Heights boat ramp. They are practicing the total event and that means food fight.

Each race, the teams throw remnants of their food supplies at the other teams when they arrive at the locks, Kemp said.

High Anxiety is ready this year with a concoction of pizza, oranges, grape jelly, peanut butter and cottage cheese.

"It smells like vomit," Lincoln said.

The crew members came up with the stew when they met at Kemp's house. Fortunately for Kemp, her father was in the United States at the time the food fight broke out.

"It was nasty," she said.

For some, the race means more than fun. It also means money from boat sponsors.

The sponsors pledge money for boat repairs, paint, logos and food expenses.

They also donate clothes and other items displaying company logos.

A competitive boat such as *High Anxiety* can pick up

more than \$1,200 for a race season, Kemp said.

This year's sponsors of *High Anxiety* are MISA Construction, Livingston and Nordic Air. More are on the way, Kemp said.

"It's like hell. You have to keep the boat straight. You can't sleep at all. Everyone else just goes numb while they keep paddling."

Devon Sprague
Crew member, *High Anxiety*

It makes sense to have sponsors considering the time the crews put into the boats and take away from other activities and repairs can get costly, Lincoln said. It's also good advertising considering the size of the event, Kemp said.

More than 40 boats begin the 50-plus mile canal transit race yearly.

Hundreds and maybe thousands of spectators gather at the finishing points of the five race legs that take

place during three days of paddling.

This year's race is scheduled for March 25-28 beginning at the Cristobal Yacht Club.

A regatta of sprint races precedes the race March 5 in Gamboa.

Kemp expects great competition this year in all the race's categories, but in the women's category, it's *Great Expectations* that she's expecting the most competition from, she said.

Great Expectations is a fast boat and they have a good crew, Kemp said. It finished only a little more than a minute behind the co-ed competition winner in '93.

"I think it's going to be a good race between us," Sprague said.

by Sgt. E.J. Hersom
Tropic Times Sports Editor



Pedal

The 5th Annual 25K Bike Race begins 6:30 a.m. March 12. Race registration is open for Department of Defense personnel until March 8. T-shirts will be awarded to the first 50 cyclists to cross the finish line. Helmets are required for the race. For more information, call the Howard Sports and Fitness Center at 284-3451.

SCN AM radio airs pro, college, olympic sports

Southern Command Network's AM 790 Pacific and 1420 Atlantic will broadcast the following sports this weekend.

Tonight

Pro basketball: New Jersey at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

College basketball: Oklahoma at Missouri, 4 p.m.

Sunday

Olympic hockey: Gold medal game, 9 a.m.

College basketball: Temple at Duke, 3:45 p.m.

Monday

College basketball: University of Connecticut at Georgetown, 7 p.m.

Fort Clayton range hosts pistol competition

A practical pistol competition will be held March 5 at the Fort Clayton Pistol Range. Registration will be 9 a.m. and the first shot will be 9:30 a.m. The competition is open to active duty members in single or four-man team events. For registration, fees or information, call 287-5647.

DENTAC sponsors run against tooth decay

The U.S. Army Dental Activity - Panama will host the 10th Run From Decay Fun Run 8 a.m. Saturday at the Albrook AFS track. The run is open to children 5-12 years old who have bilingual identification cards. The children will run in categories of 200 meters and 1/4 mile races and prizes will be awarded. Registration forms can be picked

up at Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the Fort Clayton Dental Clinic and the Gorgas Army Community Hospital Dental Clinic. Late registration will be at the track 7-7:30 a.m. on race day. For information, call Chris Merida at 287-3609/3904.

Howard fitness center holds lunch aerobics

The Howard Sports and Fitness Center will begin lunch-time aerobics March 15. The schedule is 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call the center at 284-3451.

Howard, Albrook summer bowling sign-ups begin

The Howard and Albrook bowling centers are signing up bowlers to form summer bowling leagues. Visit the bowling centers or call 284-4818 or 286-4260.

Reeder hosts history month tournament

The Reeder Physical Fitness Center is hosting a Black History Month basketball tournament Saturday-Monday. Registration and a fee are needed to enter. Call 287-3861 for more information.

Youth center courts open to open-play tennis

Tennis players can participate in open play tennis 9 a.m. Wednesdays in March on the tennis courts behind the Howard Youth Center. Call Kelly Henton at 284-3277 or the Howard Sports and Fitness Center at 284-3451 for more information.

Drag race club holds race event at Albrook field

The National Drag Racing Association is preparing for its second race of the season valid for the Fourth Soberana Beer Gaud Cup. The race will be held 1 p.m. Sunday at the Albrook Field Strip. Gates open at 11 a.m. Many members of the military and Panama Canal Commission community participate in the event. The general admission fee is \$3. Race categories are motorcycles up to 50cc, 501cc to 750cc, 75cc to 900cc and 900cc and up, cars four cylinder and eight cylinder stock, super stock, modified and super modified. Beverages and food will be available. For registration information, call Cecil Reynolds at 224-9223.

Howard center accepts Tae Kwon Do forms

Applications for the Tae Kwon Do training camp at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., are available at the Howard Sports and Fitness Center. Application deadline is Saturday and forms are available for active duty airmen. Call the center at 284-3451 for more information.

Howard center teaches fitness training classes

The Howard Sports and Fitness Center holds Fitness Improvement Training Classes 6:05-7 a.m. and 2:05-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the center. The classes consist of a calisthenic super circuit work out that is aimed at improving muscular endurance, cardiovascular systems and flexibility. Students must be evaluated on the amount of exercise they are capable of performing in a class before the program starts. Call the center at 284-3451 for more information.

Atlantic fitness center combines step, aerobics

The Fronius Physical Fitness Center has free aerobics 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday given by Delinda Clemons. Monday and Wednesday are step classes with a warm-up and cool-down. Tuesday and Thursday are combination classes that focus on the upper body Tuesday and the lower body Thursday. Steps and weights are provided. Call 289-3163 for more information.

Curundu Bowling Center holds green pin bowling

The Curundu Bowling Center holds green pin bowling Sundays. Make a strike when the green pin is in the number one position and that game is free. Call the center at 285-3914 for more information.

Fitness center offers free weekday aerobics class

The Reeder Physical Fitness Center has free aerobics 9:15-10:15 a.m. weekdays. Each workout has a warm up, cardiovascular workout, cool down and floorwork. Call the center at 287-3861 for more information.

Military Sailing Club holds courses until June

The Military Sailing Club will hold several four-day sailing courses through June. Each class will be held during the last weekend and first weekend of the month. The \$75 cost includes the rental fee of the boat, instructor and a certification card that can be used to take the intermediate sailing course at Rodman Naval Station. Classes are limited to the first 10 students to sign up. People who are not in the first 10 will be scheduled for future classes. Call Steve

Rasmussen at 287-5968, John Stobie at 285-4634 or stop by the Fort Clayton Boat Shop.

Crossroads tennis club host Diablo tournament

The monthly Crossroads Tennis Club tournament will be Saturday and Sunday at the Diablo Heights Tennis Courts with categories for men, women and children. For more information, call Mike Goldstein at 264-5160 or Wally Murdoch at 252-2969.

Fitness center teaches self-directed aerobics

The Howard Sports and Fitness Center offers self-directed aerobics programs — "Ski the Appalachian Trail" and "Climb Mount Everest." Call 284-3451.

Howard fitness center sets new aerobic hours

The Howard Sports and Fitness Center will have step aerobic classes 8:45 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Classes cost \$1. Call 284-3451.

Sports registration open at Reeder fitness center

Registration for the following sports events has begun at the Directorate of Community Activities Sports Branch on Fort Clayton: Desert Storm softball program; unit level flag football and women's soccer. Call 287-4050 for more information.

Youth Services seeks youth soccer coaches

Youth Services-Atlantic needs coaches for the upcoming youth soccer season. Registration for the season is also under way. Space is limited. Sign up at the Building 219, Fort Espinar.

Fitness center hosts free play volleyball weekdays

The Howard Sports and Fitness Center will hold free-play volleyball 6:30-8:30 p.m. weekdays. Call the center at 284-3451 for more information.

Rodman Fitness Center rents mountain bikes

The Rodman Fitness Center rents mountain bikes on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. Prices are \$1 per hour, \$5 per day, \$25 per week. A \$25 deposit is required for rentals taken off Rodman Naval Station. The center rents sleeping bags, tents, coolers, stoves, lanterns, cots, golf clubs, canteens and more. Call 283-4222/4061.

Atlantic center offers free weekday step aerobics

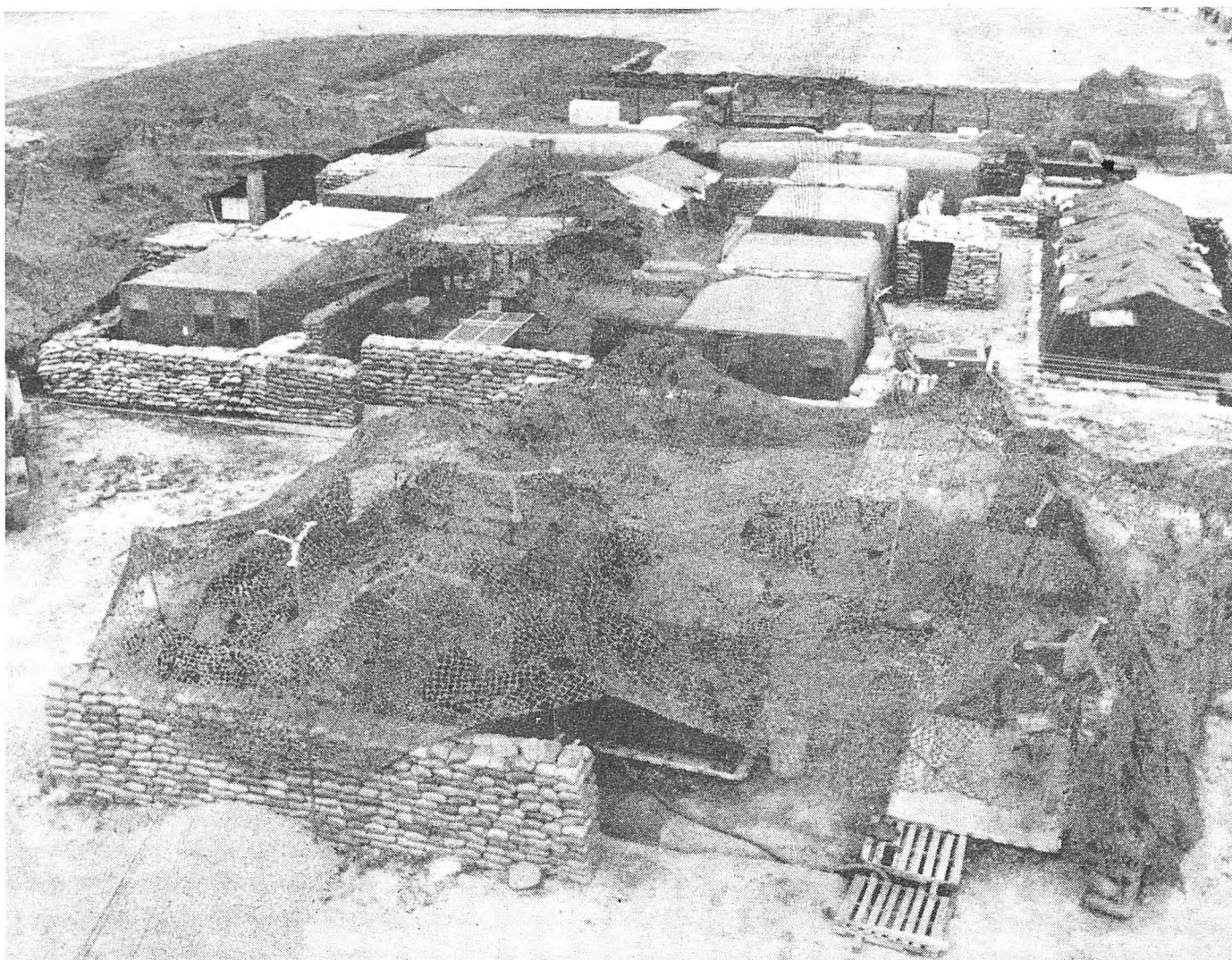
The Fronius Physical Fitness Center offers free step aerobics 9-10 a.m. weekdays. Participants must have their own step. Call the center at 289-3108 for more information.

Rodman fitness center offers fitness training

The Rodman Fitness Center offers fitness and weightlifting training classes 4:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 283-4222/4061.

Howard, Albrook pools offer swimming classes

The Howard and Albrook pools have swimming lessons and ladies water aerobics classes. Call 284-3569 286-3555.



U.S. Air Force photo by SMSgt. Boyd Belcher

Isolated from their homes in the United States, airmen stationed at ground-based radar sites in South America are getting help from squadrons at Howard AFB.

Squadrons uplift morale at radar sites

by Sgt. James A. Rush
24th Wing Public Affairs

HOWARD AFB - Isolated from their homes in the United States, airmen stationed at ground-based radar sites in South America are getting help from squadrons here.

Air Force members in communications, civil engineering, services, mission support and air postal are putting together weekly care packages of newspapers, magazines and video tapes as part of the base's "Adopt-A-Det" program.

"It's really important to keep them current so they don't feel so isolated," said Maj. James A. Dula, 24th Mission Support Squadron commander.

Last November, the major accompanied a delegation of base officials who visited the radar sites to see how Howard AFB could better support them.

"We came back loaded with informa-

tion and armed with advice on what to do," Dula said. "A couple of the things they were definitely missing were moral items. They have televisions and VCRs, but there's no cable, no CNN late news, so they have no way of knowing what's going on back home."

Conditions at the detachments are primitive. Sand bag bunkers and guard towers with cleared "kill zones" around them, and roads that are more mud than dirt are among the sights he saw.

"When HMMWVs get stuck, it's pretty bad. And that happens all the time," Dula said. "They've got snakes and mosquitoes that are desperate to get into your bunk."

The rugged conditions at the detachments reminded Dula of his own remote tour in Takhli, Thailand, during the Vietnam War, he said.

With all the turmoil caused by natural disasters in the states this year, one memory is particularly pertinent, he said.

While he was remotely assigned in Thailand, Dula's wife, Phyllis, was living in a high-rise apartment in Atlanta. One day, he caught part of a news broadcast about a skyscraper in his wife's neighborhood that collapsed during a fire.

"Trying to find out what really happened was tough," he said. "I spent several hours trying to get through. It was really nerve-wracking."

In 1972, cassette tapes from home were the big thing, Dula said. The lift he got from home recordings inspired Dula to suggest the detachment adoption plan.

"If we can adopt a school, it shouldn't be much problem to adopt our fellow Air Force folks down country," Dula said.

"I think morale down there hovers at about the best it can be, but you are out there. The only outside contact many of them have is our planes."

People wanting to help the "Adopt-A-Det" program can call Dula at 284-3456.

Air Force shuffling budget for construction

by TSgt. Gary Pomeroy
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Not noticeable among the graphs and technical terms in the Air Force's 1995 fiscal budget is a last-minute negotiation with Defense Department budget officials that created funding for 22 new dormitories and a child development center.

These projects came about as the Defense Department pressed to limit military construction funds in fiscal 1995 to deal with reduced funding coupled with the uncertainty of closures and reductions, said Maj. Gen.-select Allen D. "Doug" Bunker, the Air Force's senior budget official.

It is a prime example that Air Force leadership — amid draw-down and post-Cold War fiscal realities — has not lost sight of people in the budget process, Bunker said.

"The partial construction numbers took us almost down to zero except for environmental and safety-type projects," said Bunker, the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force (budget).

"At that point, the chief (Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, Air Force chief of staff) got personally involved and said he couldn't stand to have all military construction projects affecting people to be delayed even for a year."

The result was the Air Force deferred other, high-priority mission projects to buy the 22 dorms and the development center.

This amount was in addition to \$182 million the Air Force targeted to spend for 420 new housing units, replacement of 1,293 old units and construction of two support centers at 21 bases stateside. Another \$62 million will fund improvements on 810 existing units at 17 stateside and two overseas bases.

The cost of these projects pales compared to the overall budget, but shows that leadership maintains a link between quality of life and readiness, Bunker said.

"The long lists of boring numbers are difficult to relate to people or readiness, but I can assure you that Air Force leadership is very sensitive to the people programs," he said.

"Sometimes we get caught up looking at the cost only," Bunker said. "But when you look at the impact on families during deployments, for example, and peace of mind, then it is a readiness item."

Housing is the starting point for other items buried in the budget. Items such as training programs can be deciphered as well.

"Scaling down the size of the Air Force intensifies the need for leadership to maintain standards that were established before the drawdown began," said Air Force Secretary Sheila E. Widnall.

"Because we have fewer people, the importance of their training increases," Widnall said. "Likewise, family programs are more significant simply because Air Force family members are — more than ever — key to accomplishing our mission."

Army Band concerts set

FORT AMADOR (USARSO PAO) - The 79th Army Band dry season concerts are in full swing throughout the U.S. Army South community.

The concerts are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. for the following dates and locations:

Sunday at the Amador Gazebo; March 9 at Fort Davis' Davis Park; March 13 at the Amador Gazebo; March 26 at Howard Air Force Base near the Base Exchange; March 27 at the Amador Gazebo; April 9 at Howard AFB near the BX; April 10 at the Amador Gazebo; April 29 at Fort Davis' Davis Park; May 1 at the Amador Gazebo; May 13 at Fort Davis' Davis Park; and May 15 at the Amador Gazebo.

History month events set

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - In recognition of Black History Month, the following events will take place:

◆Saturday 6:30 a.m. Black History Prayer Breakfast at Gorgas Army Community Hospital;

◆Saturday 2 p.m. movie, "Malcom X," at Fort Clayton Theater; and

◆Sunday 12:30 p.m. a Religious Service at the Fort Clayton Chapel.

◆Sunday 6 p.m. Gospel concert, Clayton Chapel.

USARSO lists courts martial

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - The following court martial results are announced:

Sgt. Francisco Torres, 92nd Personnel Service Company, was convicted of wrongful appropriation, larceny and forgery. He was sentenced to forfeit \$500 pay per month for six months, confinement for six months and reduction to private one.

PFC Luis Perez, Company A, 154th Signal Battalion, was convicted of conspiracy, wrongful use of cocaine and marijuana and wrongful distribution of marijuana. He was sentenced to forfeit all pay and allowances, confinement for eight months, reduction to private one and a bad conduct discharge.

EO course upcoming

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - There will be an equal opportunity representative course March 14-18 for the Pacific community and April 18-22 for the Atlantic. call 287-4260.

Wives club to host auction

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - The Officers' and Civilians' Wives' Club Latin American Auction will be 6 p.m. March 19 at Club Amador. Tickets are on sale for privilege card holders. For information, call 287-5743/6597.